



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

July 11, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE REMOVED MORE THAN 3,000 CRIMINAL ALIENS, STATUS VIOLATORS FROM SOUTH TEXAS DURING JUNE**

SAN ANTONIO — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers announced today that during the month of June the Detentions and Removal Operations office here deported 3,385 aliens, of which 562 were criminal aliens.

Those removed were lawfully ordered deported by a federal immigration judge. They were removed to their countries of origin, which include: Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Albania, Argentina, Bolivia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Peru, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. Some of the crimes committed by those removed ranged from aggravated assault and drug trafficking, to lewd and lascivious acts on a child.

“Our citizens may sleep better knowing that these dangerous criminals no longer pose a threat to our communities,” said Marc J. Moore, ICE field office director for detention and removal operations in San Antonio. “ICE will continue to work aggressively to remove those who have no legal right to remain in the United States, especially those who terrorize our communities.” Moore oversees a south Texas area which includes the cities of: San Antonio, Austin, Harlingen and Laredo.

This local enforcement operation is part of a 10-year national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing the more than 400,000 absconders and 80,000 fugitive criminal aliens with outstanding final orders of removal that are using the United States as safe haven.

Aliens are deported via bus to Mexico, and aboard both commercial and government aircraft to all other countries. The government’s aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshal Service, and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally. There is an automatic 10-year bar against deported aliens from legally re-entering the U.S. Re-entering the United States after being formally deported is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

The Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) focuses on promoting public safety and national security by ensuring that all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed from the United States as expeditiously as possible.

Last year, ICE removed a record-setting 160,000 aliens; approximately 53 percent were criminal aliens. ICE's San Antonio field office has removed 7,576 aliens since the beginning of Fiscal Year 05; 4,084 were criminal aliens.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*